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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/01487 (22) International Filing Date: 28 April 2000 (28.04.00) (30) Priority Data: 9909749.5 29 April 1999 (29.04.99) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MINERAL RECOVERY LIMITED [GB/GB]; 34 Albyn Place, Aberdeen AB10 1YN (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): OLDFIELD, Christopher [GB/GB]; 82 Gateside Avenue, Haddington, East Lothian EH41 3SD (GB). (74) Agent: FITZPATRICKS; 4 West Regent Street, Glasgow G2 1RS (GB).		(81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: METHOD, APPARATUS AND USE OF CHELATING AGENTS FOR THE PURIFICATION OF CALCIUM SULPHATE (57) Abstract A chemical process for the purification of CaSO ₄ utilises the ability of an aqueous solution of a chelating agent to selectively dissolve CaSO ₄ , in that the initial extraction can be carried out at certain pH and CaSO ₄ can be recovered by titration to a different pH (usually a lower pH) following a mechanical treatment, such as centrifugation or filtration, to separate the aqueous chelate solution from insoluble material. Also claimed are an apparatus and the use of chelating agents therefor.		

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